

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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PC-01 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 IO-10 INT-05 FRB-03

XMB-02 /090 W

----- 043765

P R 012015Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8464

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY

REF: KINGSTON 2987

1. AFTER EXCHANGE WITH PM MANLEY JULY 31 ON THIS FALL'S
UNGA SESSIONS (REFTEL), WE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING SUBJECTS.

2. CUBA - THE PRIME MINISTER RAISED THE SUBJECT BY
COMMENTING THAT THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE APPEARED TO BE
EXTENDING TO THE CARIBBEAN AS EVIDENCED BY RECENT OAS
ACTIONS ON CUBA. I REPLIED THAT I GENERALLY AGREED BUT
WOULD BE LESS THAN FRANK IF I DID NOT MENTION THAT SOME
OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S RHETORIC DURING HIS RECENT CUBAN
VISIT AND ON HIS RETURN TO JAMAICA HAD RAISED A NUMBER OF
EYEBROWS. MANLEY FEIGNED DISBELIEF ASKING WHAT HAD
GOTTEN PEOPLE EXCITED. WHEN I MENTIONED THAT THE
COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE MEETING WAS NOT
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EXACTLY MUSIC TO OUR EARS MANLEY REPLIED "DOES ANYBODY

READ THOSE THINGS, REALLY TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY?" I SAID
FRANKLY YESS, AND A NUMBER OF OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED THAT
COMMUNIQUE WENT CONSIDERABLY FURTHER THAN THE ONES
ISSUED FOLLOWING THE VISITS OF FORBES BURNHAM AND ERIC
WILLIAMS. PM MANLEY EXPLAINED THAT THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE
WAS MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THAT ORIGINALLY PRESENTED BY THE
CUBANS PARTICULARLY ON THE SUBJECT OF PUERTO RICO WHICH
WAS MARKEDLY TONED DOWN. HE CLAIMED THAT THE TOLD
THE CUBANS THAT THE PUERTO RICANS HAD DECIDED IN A FREE
ELECTION TO GO ALONG WITH THE U.S. AND AS FAR AS HE WAS
CONCERNED THAT WAS THAT. THE PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDED THIS
TOPIC WITH THE COMMENT THAT THE REMARKABLE THING ABOUT THE
CUBANS WAS THAT THERE WAS NO TROUBLE WHATSOEVER IN MAKING
THE CHANGES IN THE COMMUNIQUE DESIRED BY THE JAMAICANS. THEY
WERE MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE THAN PREVIOUSLY.

3. JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. - PRIME MINISTER SAID
THAT HE HAD GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO FIND THE RIGHT MAN FOR
WASHINGTON AND FELT ALFRED RATTRAY WAS A GOOD, HARD WORKING
MAN. I COMMENTED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD HEARD MANY FINE THINGS
ABOUT HIM AND THAT I HOPED FORMAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE RECEIVED
FROM WASHINGTON SOON AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM HIS
EUROPEAN TRIP. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH FORMER
AMBASSADOR FLETCHER I LEARNED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WANTS
RATTRAY TO TAKE UP HIS POST DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN
AUGUST SO THAT HE IS SOMEWHAT ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE
PRIME MINISTER TRAVELS TO NEW YORK FOR THE UN 7TH SS UNGA.

4. BAUXITE - WHEN I ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER HOW THE
VARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROCEEDING WITH THE
COMAPNIES HE GAVE ME A RATHER UPBEAT BU BLAND REPLY THAT
THINGS WERE GOING ALONG FINE WITH KAISER, REVERE AND REYNOLDS,
AND THAT TALKS HAD JUST STARTED WITH ALCAN. AS FOR JAVAMEX
AS A RESULT OF MEYER MATALON'S RECENT TRIP TO MEXICO
PRACTICALLY ALL PREPARATIONS PRIOR TO ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION
HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE NEW PLANT WILL HAVE A 900,000 TON
CAPACITY AND JAMAICA WILL TAKE 100,000 TONS WHICH WILL
GIVE HER EXPERIENCE IN MARKETING. MANLEY CLAIMED THAT WHILE
THE REVERE PLANT WAS IN NEED OF EXPANSION IF IT WERE TO BECOME
MORE EFFICIENT, GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO DO SO AT THIS
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TIME. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN AN
EXPANSION OF THE ALCOA PLANT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE
CHEAPER THAN BUILDING A NEW ONE, MANLEY COMMENTED THAT IT
WAS AN INTERESTING IDEA AND THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING
IN IT. COMMENT: MANLEY ACTED LIKE THE SUGGESTION OF AN
ALCOA EXPANSION WAS ENTIRELY NEW TO HIM. THE EMBASSY FINDS
THAT RATHER HAD TO BELIEVE AS THE LOCAL ALCOA MANAGER HAS
FLOATED IT WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR FLETCHER WHO IS FAIRLY

ENTHUSIASTIC WITH THE IDEA.

5. PEACE CORPS - I RECALLED AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WE HAD HAD ON THE SUBJECT OF PEACE CORPS AND SUGGESTED THAT NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW THE BASIC AGREEMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THAT IT WAS NECESSARY AS THERE APPEARED TO BE NO PROBLEMS AND THAT THE PROGRAM WAS GOING ALONG JUST FINE. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE PERCEIVED NO PROBLEMS EITHER BUT DESIRED A REVIEW IN ORDER TO UP DATE CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW TO DETERMINE JAMAICA'S PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS.

6. ANTI-INFLATION PACKAGE - I ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER HOW WORK WAS PROCEEDING ON THE ANTI-INFLATION PACKAGE WHICH HE HAS SAID HE WILL ANNOUNCE AT THE END OF THE MONTH. SPECIFICALLY I WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS ANY SUBSTANCE TO THE RUMORS THAT FAIRLY SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ONE COULD TAKE OUT OF THE COUNTRY WOULD BE IMPOSED. OUR INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT IS FAIRLY DIRECT AS THE LARGEST SINGLE ELEMENT OF OUR MISSION IS CONCERNED WITH THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS. THE PRIME MINISTER ADMITTED THAT HE WAS HAVING A HARD TIME PUTTING THE PACKAGE TOGETHER. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS HE SIMPLY SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE NOTE OF MY COMMENTS AND WAS GLAD TO HAVE THEM.

GERARD

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